

REMARKS

*Status of the Claims*

Claims 3, 4, 14, and 15 are pending in this application and Claims 2, 5, 6, 13 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 3, 4, 14 and 15 are independent. Claims 3, 4, 14 and 15 have been amended.

*Requested Action*

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that Claims 3-6, 14, and 15 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if redrafted in independent form. In response, Applicant has redrafted Claims 3, 4, 14, and 15 in independent form, thereby rendering these claims allowable and has canceled the remaining claims.

*Claim Rejection*

Claims 2, 13, and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the patent to Iura et al. in view of the patent to Nanjo et al. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, these claims have been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

*Conclusion*

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Any fee required in connection with this paper should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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